

To: Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Delaney McKinley, Director of Human Resource Policy and Membership Development

Date: March 17, 2015

RE: Support SB 169 and SB 170

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the manufacturing perspective on Senate Bills 169 and 170. MMA represents about 2,300 members that operate in the full spectrum of manufacturing industries, ranging from small manufacturers to some of the world's most iconic corporations.

I'm writing today to express our support for Senate Bills 169 and 170. This legislation recognizes and encourages students to more fully invest in science and math courses during their secondary education.

Manufacturers right now are desperately in need of talented individuals with strong foundational skills in math and science. In September 2013, there were just over 11,000 manufacturing job openings in the state of Michigan<sup>1</sup>. That was a 22% increase over the previous year. It's not that there is a lack of people out there; there is a shortage of skilled and qualified talent. And as our economy rebounds and manufacturing continues to thrive, the lack of available talent is an increasingly distressing problem for our state's largest industry.

Careers in advanced manufacturing are heavily reliant on strong math and science skills. Our members tell us they want the best and the brightest to run their plants and their equipment so we support high standards in education. And we want to make sure that students are building the skills that are in demand in today's workforce. We believe that Senate Bills 169 and 170 will help achieve that goal and will take additional steps to ensure that Michigan students are achieving a high school diploma that is applicable and relevant to the jobs and careers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We urge your support.

***Michigan Manufacturing Facts***

- *Michigan manufacturers employ 573,700 people as of November 2014<sup>2</sup>*
- *Michigan manufacturers have created 113,000 new jobs since September 2009*
- *Michigan ranks #1 in the nation for manufacturing job growth, outpacing the next three closest states by 50%<sup>2</sup>*
- *Over half of today's manufacturing workers will likely retired in the next 10 years<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics